

# MEMO

---

**DATE:** October 31, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Libya Weekly Update

---

Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- Russian Facebook accounts have been suspended due to the sharing of false local and geopolitical news on Libya. These pages and accounts have been linked to the Wagner Group, which has been providing General Haftar mercenaries on the ground.
- The eastern central bank, supported by General Haftar, increased its delivery of banknotes from Russia. This has correlated with Haftar's offensive on Tripoli, and raises concerns in the west over mounting liquidity issues due to the east's tie to Russia.
- Germany's Foreign Minister, in conversation with GNA officials, is calling for an end to foreign interference in Libya. This comes as the US Ambassador expressed to GNA officials the need for a political solution in the conflict.
- After two months of attacks, the GNA successfully reopened Tripoli's only airport. These attacks, launched on a civilian facility by General Haftar's LNA, had kept the airport closed and damaged.

**The Punch (10/30):** [Russia spreading false information in Libya, Cameroon, six others –Facebook](#)

- Facebook removed accounts linked to Russia spreading disinformation on the platform about African countries.
- One network focused on Libya, which was involved in spreading misinformation about the ongoing activity in the country. This network involved 15 accounts and 12 pages posting about the local and geopolitical issues.
- Some of the Facebook accounts were tied to Russia's Wagner Group, which is responsible for providing General Haftar with mercenaries on the ground in Libya.

**Reuters (10/29):** [EXCLUSIVE-Supplies of banknotes from Russia to east Libya accelerated this year - data](#)

- A central bank in eastern Libya, which is supported by General Haftar, has stepped up its delivery of banknotes from Russia.
- 4.5 billion Libya dinars (\$3.22 billion) were sent in four shipments from February to June, right before General Haftar launched his offensive in Tripoli in April.
- There is a concern among western Libyan diplomats, who have worked to reunite the central bank, about the printing of banknotes in Russia and the accumulation of debt by Haftar's eastern Libya.

**Associated Press (10/28):** [Germany's FM Seeks End of 'Foreign Interference' in Libya](#)

- Heiko Maas, Germany's Foreign Minister, is calling on all foreign interference in Libya to end, saying the issue in Libya will be discussed at a conference on Libya in Berlin later this year.

*Disseminated by Mercury Public Affairs LLC, a registered foreign agent, on behalf of the Government of National Accord Libya, Office of the Prime Minister. More information is on file with the dept. Of justice, Washington, DC.*

- Maas spoke alongside Mohamed Siala, the Foreign Minister of the GNA, and Ghassan Salame, UN special envoy to Libya.

Libya Observer (10/26): [US ambassador reiterates support for political solution to the Libyan crisis](#)

- US Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland renewed the US's support of a political solution to the Libyan conflict.
- Norland stated this to the GNA that the US is making efforts in order to achieve peace in Libya.

Reuters (10/29): [Libya reopens Tripoli's Mitiga airport after two months of closure](#)

- The GNA has successfully reopened the Mitiga airport, which is Tripoli's only functioning airport.
- The airport had been closed for two months due to attacks by General Haftar's forces. The airport has been a target of attacks over the recent month, which forced flight stoppage.
- UN Libya envoy Ghassan Salame assured that the airport opening will return the airport to civilian operation, free of military manifestations.

Russia Business Today (10/7): [Tatneft Ready to Resume Operations in Libya, Chairman Says](#)

- Russian oil and gas company Tatneft expressed their readiness to resume work in Libya during the next coming weeks.
- The company will look to increase investment in oil field development, heavy crude, and shale oil and gas.

###